

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 AF-06 IO-11 AID-05 OPIC-03

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 DHA-02 BIB-01 EB-07

SAJ-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /102 W
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R 270924Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5792

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH COMMUNIST INTERVIEWED

SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW WITH EXPRESSO EIDTOR BALSEMAO, SPANISH
COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER CARLOS SANTO MARIA ASSERTED THAT WITH-
HOLDING OF LEGALITY WOULD INCREASE COMMUNIST PRESTIGE IN
SPAIN AND THAT OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES THERE WOULD NOT ACCEPT
LEGALIZATION WITHOUT COMMUNISTS GETTING IT TOO. SANTA MARIA
NOTED THAT THE SPANISH SITUATION DIFFERS FROM THE PORTUGUESE IN
THAT POLITICAL PARTIES RATHER THAN MILITARY WERE INSTRUMENTS
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OF POLITICAL CHANGE IN SPAIN. HE SAID THAT THE SPANISH COMMUNISTS

HAD DIFFERED WITH PORTUGUESE COUNTERPARTS OVER THE IMPORTANCE OF NEED TO PROTECT DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES. END SUMMARY

1. INDEPENDENT LISBON WEEKLY "EXPRESSO" CARRIED JAN 24 INTERVIEW WITH CARLOS SANTA MARIA, IDENTIFIED AS MEMBER OF SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PARTIDO COMUNISTA ESPANHOL -- PCE). SANTA MARIA WAS INTERVIEWED BY FRANCISCO BALSEMAO, EXPRESSO'S EDITOR. BALSEMAO IS MARRIED TO SPANISH WIFE, WAS BROUGHT UP WITH JUAN CARLOS, AND HAS KEEN INTEREST IN SPANISH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. SUMMARY OF SANTA MARIA'S COMMENTS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. PCE LEGALITY: PCE IS SO ENTRENCHED IN SPANISH SOCIETY THAT GOVERNMENT COULD ONLY LIMIT ITS FREEDOM OF ACTION THROUGH SUPPRESSION. FAILURE TO LEGALIZE PCE WHILE LEGALIZING OTHER PARTIES WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE PCE'S PRESTIGE, MAKING IT, IN EFFECT, "STANDARD BEARER OF DEMOCRACY." OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES SUCH AS THE SOCIALISTS AND THE SPANISH RIGHT KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE. FOR THIS REASON THE SOCIALISTS WOULD NOT ACCEPT LEGALIZATION IF IT DENIED THE COMMUNISTS. PCE, FOR ITS PART, IS "TIRED OF CLANDESTINITY".

3. PCE RELATIONS WITH OTHER PARTIES: TIES WHICH PCE IS NOW FORMING WITH SPANISH SOCIALISTS AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ARE STRENGTHENING UNITY OF DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION. ALLIANCE WITH THESE PARTIES IS "ESSENTIAL" FOR GUARANTEEING DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES IN SPAIN. PCE RELATIONS WITH EXTREME LEFT ARE ALSO VERY GOOD. GROUPS SUCH AS WORKERS PARTY AND SPANISH COMMUNIST MOVEMENT HAVE "MATURED" AND CURRENTLY COOPERATE WITH PCE IN JUNTA DEMOCRATICA OR PLATFORM OF DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE.

4. PARALLELS TO PORTUGAL: SPANISH POLITICAL SITUATION IS DIFFERENT FROM PORTUGUESE. WHEREAS IN PORTUGAL ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT WAS INSTRUMENT OF DEMOCRATIC CHANGE, IN SPAIN PARTIES OF DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION ARE FILLING THIS ROLE. THE SPANISH DEMOCRATIC MILITARY UNION (UNIAO MILITAR DEMOCRATICA -- UMD) DIFFERS FROM THE AFM IN THAT IT IS CONCERNED ESSENTIALLY WITH ALTERING MILITARY HIERARCHY; IT BELIEVES POLITICS SHOULD BE LEFT TO POLITICIANS. IN SPAIN, ALL PARTIES OF DEMOCRATIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPPOSITION AGREE ON NEED TO PROTECT DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AS THE MINIMUM BASIS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DEMOCRACY. "WE HAVE HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY IN THIS REGARD."

5. NATIONALITIES QUESTION: PCE, LIKE MOST PARTIES OF DEMOCRATIC LEFT, BELIEVES BASQUES, CATALONIANS, AND GALICIANS SHOULD HAVE SELF-GOVERNMENT. EACH OF THESE REGIONS HAS THEIR

OWN PARTY APPARTUS, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE COORDINATED IN THE
VERALL CLASS STRUGGLE BY THEPCE. "WE ARE NOT SUPPORTERS OF
BUREAUCRATIC CENTRALISM AND ARE MAKING A GREAT EFFORT TO OVER-
COME WHAT WE CONSIDER STALINIST DEFORMATIONS OF MARXISM AND
OF THE CONDITION OF COMMUNIST PARTIES."

6. FOREIGN RELATIONS: "WE ARE NOT THIRD WORLDISTS," BUT DESIRE
A "FUTURE OF INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT
INTEGRATED IN EUROPE AND THE COMMON MARKET." "OUR INTERESTS
MAY COINCIDE WITH MOSCOW OR WITH WASHINGTON, OR THEY MAY NOT
COINCIDE. ABOVE ALL, THEY ARE OUR INTERESTS." END NCLASSIFIED.
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